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21254

7590

07/22/2009

MCGINN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP, PLLC  
8321 OLD COURTHOUSE ROAD  
SUITE 200  
VIENNA, VA 22182-3817

EXAMINER

NEGRON, WANDA M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2622

DATE MAILED: 07/22/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/669,801	09/25/2003	Masahiro Terada	FI-2003-018-US	8163

TITLE OF INVENTION: IMAGE EDITING APPARATUS, IMAGE EDITING PROGRAM, AND IMAGE EDITING METHOD

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	10/22/2009

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE** OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

## HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

# **PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL**

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to:** **Mail** **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**  
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**INSTRUCTIONS:** This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

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21254 7590 07/22/2009  
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**8321 OLD COURTHOUSE ROAD**  
**SUITE 200**  
**VIENNA, VA 22182-3817**

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(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/669,801	09/25/2003	Masahiro Terada	FI-2003-018-US	8163
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**TITLE OF INVENTION:** IMAGE EDITING APPARATUS, IMAGE EDITING PROGRAM, AND IMAGE EDITING METHOD

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	10/22/2009

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
NEGRON, WANDA M	2622	348-578000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.  
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a **Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
3 \_\_\_\_\_

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee  
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)  
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies \_\_\_\_\_

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.  
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.  
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Typed or printed name \_\_\_\_\_ Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/669,801	09/25/2003	Masahiro Terada	EI-2003-018-US	8163
21254	7590	07/22/2009	EXAMINER	
MCGINN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP, PLLC 8321 OLD COURTHOUSE ROAD SUITE 200 VIENNA, VA 22182-3817			NEGIRON, WANDA M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2622	
DATE MAILED: 07/22/2009				

## Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 624 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 624 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

**Notice of Allowability****Application No.**

10/669,801

**Examiner**

WANDA M. NEGRON

**Applicant(s)**

TERADA, MASAHIRO

**Art Unit**

2622

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to response filed on 4/20/2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are claims 1, 6-8, 10-13, 17, 18, 2-5, 19, 14-16 and 20-23, renumbered consecutively as claims 1-22.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Allowable Subject Matter***

**Claims 1-8 and 10-23 are allowed.**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding **claims 1, 6-8, 10-13 and 17-18**, independent claim 1 discloses an image editing apparatus which joins a plurality of images in time, comprising: a recording device which records a plurality of images associated with image related information including at least one of a shooting date and time, a shooting condition, a shooting place, and a user name; a video effect recording device which records image related information associated with a video effect during image switching; a comparison device which reads first image related information about a first image recorded in the recording device and second image related information about a second image recorded in the recording device, and compares the image related information about the first and second images; a video effect selection device which reads from the video effect recording device a video effect according to matching image related information between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison; an image joining device which reads the first and second images recorded in the recording device, and automatically joins the images by applying the video effect read by the video effect selection device to a portion in which the images are to be joined in time; and an output device which outputs the joined images: wherein said video effect selection device further reads from the video effect recording device:

a video effect according to image related information similar in a predetermined range when there is image related information similar in a predetermined range between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison; and a video effect according to no matching image related information when there is no matching image related information between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison, which is neither taught or an obvious variation of the relevant prior art.

Regarding **claim 2**, the relevant prior art fails to disclose or reasonably suggest an image editing apparatus which joins a plurality of images in time, comprising: a recording medium loading unit which loads a recording device for recording a plurality of images associated with image related information including at least one of a shooting date and time, a shooting condition, a shooting place, and a user name; a video effect recording device which records a range of image related information associated with a video effect during image switching; a comparison device which reads first image related information about a first image recorded in the recording device and second image related information about a second image recorded in the recording device, and compares the image related information about the first and second images; a video effect selection device which reads from the video effect recording device a video effect according to image related information similar in a predetermined range between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison; an image joining device which reads the first and second images recorded

in the recording device, and automatically joins the images by applying the video effect read by the video effect selection device to a portion in which the images are to be joined in time; and an output device which outputs the joined images, wherein said video effect selection device further reads from the video effect recording device: a video effect according to image related information similar in a predetermined range when there is image related information similar in a predetermined range between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison; and a video effect according to no matching image related information when there is no matching image related information between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison.

Regarding **claim 3**, the relevant prior art fails to disclose or reasonably suggest an image editing apparatus which joins a plurality of images in time, comprising: a recording device which records a plurality of images associated with image related information including at least one of a shooting date and time, a shooting condition, a shooting place, and a user name; a video effect recording device which records a range of image related information associated with a video effect during image switching ; a comparison device which reads first image related information about a first image recorded in the recording device and second image related information about a second image recorded in the recording device, and compares the image related information about the first and second images; a video effect selection device which reads from the video effect recording device a video effect according to image related information

similar in a predetermined range between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison; an image joining device which reads the first and second images recorded in the recording device, and automatically joins the images by applying the video effect read by the video effect selection device to a portion in which the images are to be joined in time; and an output device which outputs the joined images, wherein said video effect selection device further reads from the video effect recording device: a video effect according to image related information similar in a predetermined range when there is image related information similar in a predetermined range between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison; and a video effect according to no matching image related information when there is no matching image related information between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison.

Regarding **claim 4**, the relevant prior art fails to disclose or reasonably suggest an programmable storage medium tangibly embodying a program of machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform an image editing method, said method comprising: in an image editing apparatus having a recording device which records a plurality of images associated with image related information including at least one of a shooting date and time, a shooting condition, a shooting place, and a user name, a video effect recording device which records a range of image related information associated with a video effect during image switching, a comparison



device which compares image related information about a first image with image related information about a second image, a video effect selection device which reads from the video effect recording device a video effect depending on a comparison result, an image joining device which joins a first image with a second image by applying the video effect to the first and second images, an output device which outputs the joined images, and an information processing device which controls the recording device, the video effect recording device, the comparison device, the video effect selection device, the image joining device, and the output device: reading in the comparison device first image related information about a first image recorded in the recording device and second image related information about a second image recorded in the recording device, and comparing the image related information about the first and second images; reading in the video effect selection device from the video effect recording device a video effect according to image related information similar in a predetermined range between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison; reading the first and second images recorded in the recording device, and automatically joining in the image joining device the images by applying the video effect read by the video effect selection device to a portion in which the images are to be joined in time; and outputting in the output device the joined images, wherein said video effect selection device further reads from the video effect recording device: a video effect according to image related information similar in a predetermined range when there is image related information similar in a predetermined range between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison; and

a video effect according to no matching image related information when there is no matching image related information between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison.

Regarding **claim 5**, the relevant prior art fails to disclose or reasonably suggest an image editing method, comprising: in an image editing apparatus having a recording device which records a plurality of images associated with image related information including at least one of a shooting date and time, a shooting condition, a shooting place, and a user name, a video effect recording device which records a range of image related information associated with a video effect during image switching, a comparison device which compares image related information about a first image with image related information about a second image, a video effect selection device which reads from the video effect recording device a video effect depending on a comparison result, an image joining device which joins a first image with a second image by applying the video effect to the first and second images, and an output device which outputs the joined images: reading first image related information about a first image recorded in the recording device and second image related information about a second image recorded in the recording device, and comparing the image related information about the first and second images, in the comparison device; reading in the video effect selection device from the video effect recording device a video effect according to image related information similar in a predetermined range between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison; reading the first and

second images recorded in the recording device, and automatically joining the images by applying the video effect read by the video effect selection device to a portion in which the images are to be joined in time, in the image joining device; and outputting in the output device the joined images, wherein said video effect selection device further reads from the video effect recording device: a video effect according to image related information similar in a predetermined range when there is image related information similar in a predetermined range between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison; and a video effect according to no matching image related information when there is no matching image related information between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison.

Regarding **claims 19 and 14-16**, independent claim 19 discloses an image editing apparatus which joins a plurality of images in time, comprising: a recording device which records a plurality of images associated with image related information including at least one of a shooting date and time, a shooting condition, a shooting place, and a user name; a video effect recording device which records image related information associated with a video effect during image switching; a comparison device which reads first image related information about a first image recorded in the recording device and second image related information about a second image recorded in the recording device, and compares the image related information about the first and second images; a video effect selection device which reads from the video effect

recording device a video effect according to matching image related information between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison; an image joining device which reads the first and second images recorded in the recording device, and automatically joins the images by applying the video effect read by the video effect selection device to a portion in which the images are to be joined in time; and an output device which outputs the joined images, wherein said video effect recording device comprises a table including a list of said image related information and a video effect associated with said image related information, which is neither taught or an obvious variation of the relevant prior art.

Regarding **claim 20**, the relevant prior art fails to disclose or reasonably suggest an image editing apparatus which joins a plurality of images in time, comprising: a recording medium loading unit which loads a recording device for recording a plurality of images associated with image related information including at least one of a shooting date and time, a shooting condition, a shooting place, and a user name; a video effect recording device which records a range of image related information associated with a video effect during image switching; a comparison device which reads first image related information about a first image recorded in the recording device and second image related information about a second image recorded in the recording device, and compares the image related information about the first and second images; a video effect selection device which reads from the video effect recording device a video effect according to image related information similar in a predetermined range between the

image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison; an image joining device which reads the first and second images recorded in the recording device, and automatically joins the images by applying the video effect read by the video effect selection device to a portion in which the images are to be joined in time; and an output device which outputs the joined images: wherein said video effect recording device comprises a table including a list of said image related information and a video effect associated with said image related information.

Regarding **claim 21**, the relevant prior art fails to disclose or reasonably suggest an image editing apparatus which joins a plurality of images in time, comprising: a recording device which records a plurality of images associated with image related information including at least one of a shooting date and time, a shooting condition, a shooting place, and a user name; a video effect recording device which records a range of image related information associated with a video effect during image switching ; a comparison device which reads first image related information about a first image recorded in the recording device and second image related information about a second image recorded in the recording device, and compares the image related information about the first and second images; a video effect selection device which reads from the video effect recording device a video effect according to image related information similar in a predetermined range between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison; an image joining device which reads the first and second images recorded in the recording device, and automatically joins

the images by applying the video effect read by the video effect selection device to a portion in which the images are to be joined in time; and an output device which outputs the joined images, wherein said video effect recording device comprises a table including a list of said image related information and a video effect associated with said image related information.

Regarding **claim 22**, the relevant prior art fails to disclose or reasonably suggest an programmable storage medium tangibly embodying a program of machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform an image editing method, said method comprising: in an image editing apparatus having a recording device which records a plurality of images associated with image related information including at least one of a shooting date and time, a shooting condition, a shooting place, and a user name, a video effect recording device which records a range of image related information associated with a video effect during image switching, a comparison device which compares image related information about a first image with image related information about a second image, a video effect selection device which reads from the video effect recording device a video effect depending on a comparison result, an image joining device which joins a first image with a second image by applying the video effect to the first and second images, an output device which outputs the joined images, and an information processing device which controls the recording device, the video effect recording device, the comparison device, the video effect selection device, the image joining device, and the output device: reading in the comparison device first image

related information about a first image recorded in the recording device and second image related information about a second image recorded in the recording device, and comparing the image related information about the first and second images; reading in the video effect selection device from the video effect recording device a video effect according to image related information similar in a predetermined range between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison; reading the first and second images recorded in the recording device, and automatically joining in the image joining device the images by applying the video effect read by the video effect selection device to a portion in which the images are to be joined in time; and outputting in the output device the joined images, wherein said video effect recording device comprises a table including a list of said image related information and a video effect associated with said image related information.

Regarding **claim 23**, the relevant prior art fails to disclose or reasonably suggest an image editing method, comprising: in an image editing apparatus having a recording device which records a plurality of images associated with image related information including at least one of a shooting date and time, a shooting condition, a shooting place, and a user name, a video effect recording device which records a range of image related information associated with a video effect during image switching, a comparison device which compares image related information about a first image with image related information about a second image, a video effect selection device which reads

from the video effect recording device a video effect depending on a comparison result, an image joining device which joins a first image with a second image by applying the video effect to the first and second images, and an output device which outputs the joined images: reading first image related information about a first image recorded in the recording device and second image related information about a second image recorded in the recording device, and comparing the image related information about the first and second images, in the comparison device; reading in the video effect selection device from the video effect recording device a video effect according to image related information similar in a predetermined range between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison; reading the first and second images recorded in the recording device, and automatically joining the images by applying the video effect read by the video effect selection device to a portion in which the images are to be joined in time, in the image joining device; and outputting in the output device the joined images: wherein said video effect recording device comprises a table including a list of said image related information and a video effect associated with said image related information.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."



The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Pilu et al. (US Patent No. 7,302,113 B2) disclose a method of displaying digital images wherein an extent of similarity between two images is determined, and a type of image transition is selected automatically or manually.

Davenport et al. (US Patent No. 5,101,364) disclose a video editing method wherein a user selects a transition from a table stored in memory.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WANDA M. NEGRON whose telephone number is (571)270-1129. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9:30 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on (571) 272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Wanda M. Negrón/

Examiner, Art Unit 2622

July 16, 2009

/Sinh Tran/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2622